

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup Update and Work Plan

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SB 238 Requirements

- (1) Convene a workgroup to examine appropriate standards for cultural and linguistic competency for medical and behavioral health treatment and the feasibility and desirability of incorporating these standards into reporting by health care providers and tiering of reimbursement rates by payors;
- (2) Assess the feasibility of and develop recommendations for criteria and standards establishing multicultural health care equity and assessment programs for the Maryland Patient Centered Medical Home program and other health care settings; and
- (3) Recommend criteria for health care providers in the State to receive continuing education in multicultural health care, including cultural competency and health literacy training.
- Report due December 2013.



Workgroup Nominations

- Currently seeking nominations for workgroup members.
- Membership to consist of representatives from:
 - Maryland Health Care Commission;
 - The Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities;
 - Academic centers of health literacy and academic centers for health disparities research;
 - The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
 - Health Occupations Boards in the State;
 - A wide range of health care professionals and providers;
 - Experts on health disparities and health literacy;
 - Accreditation entities, including the National Committee for Quality Assurance and URAC;
 - Members of Maryland Patient Centered Medical Home Program Learning Collaborative; and
 - The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Cultural Competence Advisory Group.



Work Plan and Status

- July 2012: Sec. Sharfstein assigned the Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities (MHHD) to staff the Workgroup.
- July 2012: MHHD has reached out to the academic centers for health disparities to obtain their assistance with support for the Workgroup.
- August 2012: Sec. Sharfstein appoints Dr. Lisa Cooper as Chair and Dr. Marcus Pesquera as Vice Chair to the newly established Workgroup. A conference call meeting was held to discuss plans for implementation.
- August 2012: MHHD established lists for groups cited in legislation to whom letters were sent inviting nominations for individuals/organizations to serve. A posting was placed on the DHMH, Council and MHHD websites announcing the Workgroup and calling for nominations.



Work Plan and Status

- August 2012: MHHD staff researching information (federal, throughout states and among subject matter experts) and data to inform discussions among Workgroup members.
- September 2012: Set up Website Page to display developments of the workgroup and materials for public comment
- September 2012: Review nominations and make selections to convene a representative group of members.
- October 2012: Schedule the first meeting of the Cultural & Linguistic Competency Workgroup. Set charge, work-plan, future meetings, communication process, committees, etc.

